

West Salem School District

October 2011



Newsletter

From Opening Day to Labor Day

Troy M. Gunderson, Superintendent

As I wandered through our campus on the first day of school, I noticed the smiling faces of our returning students. Sporting backpacks and spiffy new shoes, students bring to life our formally quiet schools. I also noticed their parents – first timers filled with emotion, and veterans pleasantly relieved summer was finally over. Welcome back students!

For those of us in the school business, the first day of school provides a level of excitement and anticipation like no other. It combines the intensity of a job interview, the childhood anticipation of Christmas Day, and the seasonal reassurance of the opening day in baseball. September 1, 2011 lived up to the hype. It was a wonderful first day.

While the first day of school provides the headlines and memories, it was only part of an entire week of preparation for our employees. The activities began with the annual opening day kick-off on Monday morning. We formally welcomed our new employees and recognized a number of returning employees for reaching the service milestones of 10, 20 or 30 years of service. We reviewed our new mission statement and recommitted ourselves to serving our students. The remaining time prior to the arrival of students on Thursday was packed full of meetings, trainings, and preparation.

The first day of school kicked off with an enthusiastic team of drivers greeting and busing our kids. With fourteen different buses transporting hundreds of children daily, the first day out can be a daunting task. Our school district is blessed with a great staff of drivers boasting an impeccable safety record and mechanics who keep our fleet on the road. The students and staff entered our buildings finding them sparkling clean and ready for use. Our maintenance and custodial staff are second to none in their dedication to caring for our facilities. Next time you are on our campus take a moment to simply appreciate what wonderful facilities we have.

When lunch time arrived, our students enjoyed the opportunity to participate in one of the finest food service programs possible. In fact, our elementary school health

and nutrition programming is nationally recognized for excellence as a USDA Gold Medal of Distinction winner. This national recognition is the direct result of work done by our dedicated staff. Meanwhile, our middle school students enjoyed the first day in our refurbished Panther Café complete with new serving areas and tables. Our school nutrition staff is simply the best.

Our business office and district staff navigated another hectic summer in preparation for the return of the school year employees. With 22 new employees added to the more than 250 returning employees, a change in health care coverage, new rules for the state pension fund and an annual audit, the workload was tremendous. The tireless crew devoted long hours towards meeting the challenge. In fact, the auditors found our records and procedures to be incredibly accurate. With such precise record keeping, the audit took one less day than originally scheduled. Well done!

Lastly, our kids were greeted by talented and dedicated paraprofessionals and teachers who willingly serve our children by providing the very best possible instruction. Students from every age group and across our curriculum perform at outstanding levels each and every day. This highly skilled group forms the backbone of our operation. They are superstars - they make it happen.

We are fortunate to employ so many wonderfully talented and dedicated staff members to serve our children each day. As a result of their hard work, the School District of West Salem continues to be a wonderful place for kids. As the first exciting week came to a close, our staff enjoyed an extended holiday weekend - fittingly named Labor Day.

7th Grade Visits the



Outdoor Education Center

SCHOOL BOARD MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING

The West Salem School District Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING

The West Salem School District Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

BOARD MEETINGS

The meetings of the West Salem Board of Education are on the second and fourth Monday of each month.

Board meeting agendas are posted at Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, at each school, on the district web site, and at the district office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Citizen Participation at Board Meetings, Board Policy # 186. Citizens wishing to address the Board will be asked to register prior to the start of the Public Comments section of the Board meeting. For detailed guidelines, please see the policy which is available on the district's website.

ALUMINUM FOR ATHLETICS

When cleaning up around the garage, etc., you are encouraged to bring all aluminum cans to the can pen in the southwest corner of the Heider Center parking lot for recycling. West Salem Athletics will gain full benefit of this collection project.

Also, if you have any *car or truck batteries for recycling*, please drop them off at **West Salem Auto Repair** at 513 Brickl Road, West Salem. Dave Eckelberg and the guys there have graciously offered their services to be our collection point for those recyclable batteries.

NESHONOC Yearbook

The 2012 NESHONOC yearbooks may be purchased at a reduced price of \$52 if ordered on or before September 30.

If you decide to pay later, the price will be \$62. Your last chance to pre-purchase a book will be no later than October 31 and very few extras will be ordered for May sales. After that time, there will be NO guarantees. Books bought in May will cost \$65. You must pay in full at the time of purchase. Order forms are available in the high school office if you wish to personalize your NESHONOC.

Welcome New Staff Members

Jacqueline Shaw	HS Resource Teacher
Jackie Dawson	4K Paraprofessional
Megan Karow	4K Teacher
Randy Groth	Maintenance

West Salem Community Fitness Center

Annie Labus, Fitness Director

Greetings from the Fitness Center!

If you are starting to feel bored or stuck in your workout routine it might be time to try something new! Our bodies adapt to the same physical routine we put them through day after day. If you're trying to lose weight or build definition it might be time to change up your workout. Lucky for you the fitness center has just what you need...

Yogalates, Zumba, and Boot Camp are a few of the classes we offer at the High School throughout the week. All are taught by certified instructors and are offered at a discount for fitness center members. If you are looking for a slower paced workout that focuses on muscle definition and stretching then yogalates might be the class for you. Zumba and Boot Camp are both fun and exciting ways to add cardio to your weekly routine. They are fast paced and are great if you are looking for ways to lose weight or increase your over-all wellness.

The fitness center has everything you need to stay healthy and fit at an affordable price. Elliptical machines, treadmill, recumbent and spinning bike, free weights, bench press, cable weights, medicine balls, kettle bells, exercise balls and don't forget our walking/running track is open to the community and free.

We hope to see you soon!

Current Fitness Center Hours

Monday–Friday mornings 5:00–8:00 a.m.
Monday–Thursday evenings 3:00–9:00 p.m.
Fridays 3:00–7:00 p.m.
Sunday 4:00–7:00 p.m.

Clean shoes are required to enter the fitness center and indoor track. Current fitness center hours and class schedules are specified on the school website www.wsalem.k12.wi.us. Click on the fitness center icon to get the latest information about your community fitness center. You may call 786-1220 extension 2275.

**9th Annual
West Salem Holiday Craft Show
Saturday, October 29, 2011**

8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

West Salem Elementary School
475 N. Mark Street, West Salem

The Craft Show, sponsored by the Heider Center Arts Board, is FREE and open to the public

A Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the West Salem Lions Club will also take place from 7:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Cost: \$5.00 Adults
\$2.00 for 12 yrs. and under
Pancakes, sausage, applesauce,
milk, coffee, juice

**Substitute
Bus Drivers Needed—
Will Train**

If interested, please stop at the District Office at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem **OR** call 608-786-0700

OR go to <www.wsalem.k12.wi.us> for a substitute application.

For more information,
please call Rick Kline at 786-4356

School Board Members

Tom Ward ~~~~~	397-9873
Ken Spraeztz ~~~~~	786-0017
Scott Scafe ~~~~~	786-0969
Errol Kindschy ~~~~~	786-1675
Thomas Helgeson ~~~~~	612-0018
Jason Falck ~~~~~	397-3972
Linda Brown ~~~~~	786-3027

Board meetings are held the second and fourth Monday of each month.

WEST SALEM MIDDLE SCHOOL BOOK FAIR

*****ONE DAY EVENT*****

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011

9:00 A.M. – 8:00 P.M.



Image from: <http://www.etsy.com/listing/64069951/reading-friends-dracula-ghost-swampy>

**BARNES &
NOBLE**

**VALLEY VIEW MALL,
ONALASKA**

**HALLOWEEN THEME
FUN EVENTS**

STUDENTS SHOWCASING THEIR TALENTS

****THE WSMS LIBRARY RECEIVES A PERCENT
OF ALL BOOKS SOLD DURING THAT DAY. HOPE
TO SEE YOU THERE!**

**GWEN TREU,
WSMS LMC DIRECTOR**

Calling All Community Artists

All community artists and West Salem School District employees are invited to show their art work in a Community Art Show at the Marie W. Heider Center Art Gallery during the month of December 2011. We are asking for up to 3 works of art per artist that has never been displayed at the Heider Gallery before. If you are interested in exhibiting please call Judy Thelen at 786-0233 or Jane Bangsberg at 786-2388 for more information.

Heider Center Events

Marie W. Heider Center for the Arts

2011-2012 Mainstage Season

Street Corner Symphony
Sunday, October 23, 2011
7:30 p.m.



Guys & Does
Wednesday, November 9, 2011
7:30 p.m.



White Ghost Shivers
Friday, February 3, 2012
7:30 p.m.



The Water Coolers
Thursday, February 16, 2012
7:30 p.m.



Ricky Nelson Remembered
Monday, April 30, 2012
7:30 p.m.



Visual Arts Series

“Photographic Perspectives” / “The Beauty of Wood”

Jack Hill / Ken Critzman
October 1-31, 2011
Reception: October 6, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Earth Art”

Randy Christenson
November 1-30, 2011
Reception: November 10, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Community Art Exhibit”

December 1-31, 2011
Reception: December 13, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Looking Up” / “Pottery For Everyday Rituals”

Laura Sitari, Watercolors / Darrel Bowman
January 1-31, 2012
Reception: January 19, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Story Portraits: Time & Space” / “Woven Expressions”

Patricia Hall / Jean Ledman
February 1-29, 2012
Reception: February 23, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

K-12 District Honors Show

March 1-31, 2012
Reception: March 20, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Art in Bloom”

Floral Artists - Local gardeners and floral artists will design arrangements inspired by artist's work
April 1-30, 2012
Reception: April 21, 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

West Salem High School Senior Art Show

May 1-31, 2012
Reception: May 24, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.



Box Office
(608)786-2550

Monday: Noon to 7:00 p.m.
Wednesday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.
Friday: Noon to 4:00 p.m.

www.heidercenter.org

STREET CORNER SYMPHONY

First runner up on Season 2 of NBC's "The Sing Off". Members of this a cappella group are proud to call Nashville, TN their home base. **Street Corner Symphony** brings a unique, laid back, southern soul to their performance, offering a diverse repertoire.

Sunday, October 23 at 7:30 p.m.



Tickets:
\$20 for adults
\$18 for students and senior citizens

SEP Calendar 2011-2012

September 12 Open House/SEP Informational Meeting	December 5 Editing Rough Draft
October 10 Students Meet with High School Advisors during Senior Social Studies	December 6 Peer Edit
October 14 Rough Draft of Plan Proposal Due	December 7 Editing Rough Draft
October 17-20 Students Revise Plan Proposals Based on Recommendations and Find Mentors	December 7 PAPER for Teacher Edit Due in Class
October 21 Final Plan Proposal, Project Expectations, Plagiarism Policy, Mentor Confirmation, Mentor Product Approval Forms Due to Mrs. Johnson	December 12 - 16 Editing Final Draft
October 26 Mrs. Johnson Reviews Databases/Finding Resources	December 19 3:15pm Final Paper Due
October 31 Start Research in Library	January 9-18 Meet with Advisor to Get Project Checkpoint Form Signed
November 4 10 printed sources due	
November 9 Rough Draft of Working Bibliography Due	January 19 Senior Project Checkpoint Form Due
November 15 Final Copy of Working Bibliography, Note Cards, and Outline Due	February 16 Mr. Brown Explains Presentation Board
November 16 Start Writing	March 26 Portfolio Submission Form Signed By Teacher Advisor Due
November 17 Introduction Due	March 30 Projects/Portfolios Due
November 28 Fifth Page of Paper Due	April 13 Mentor Grade Sheet Due
December 2 Rough Draft for Adult Edit Due – Must have one adult edit the paper over the weekend	April 11 – May 4 Presentations in Senior Social Studies
May 8 Community Presentation Day/Ice Cream Social	

Creative Teaching: Story Time

During the final week of September, Speech/Language Therapist, Lisa Lajiness visited the 4K and Kindergarten classrooms at West Salem Elementary School to tell the story “The Little Boy Knight.” This is a story about a young boy who wishes to be a knight. It is a story about doing good deeds and about having courage. The story was told in an interactive way as some students were selected to become the characters. There was a little boy knight, a princess, a king, and a dragon. There were many students who took turns becoming the boy knight or the dragon during their play time after hearing this story!

This year Lisa will be visiting the 4K and kindergarten classrooms to tell a seasonal story once each month. This will be the 4th year she has been telling stories in the kindergarten classrooms here at West Salem Elementary. Lisa feels storytelling is an excellent way to enrich language skills, model appropriate speech articulation, develop the imagination, and help children remember things that they are learning. Children today may have difficulty forming their own visual images due to the strong influence of television, videos, video games, and use of the computer where the visual image is already provided for them. When listening to a story told from memory, with a few simple props, the children must form their own mental pictures of the characters and events that take place in the story. This helps strengthen their imaginations and builds their creativity, which are necessary lifetime skills to have! The children have enjoyed the stories over the years and some have even told her they want to become storytellers someday!

Just Days Before School Starts...



Jane Bangsberg cleans the elementary school library fish tank.



New 4K Teacher Megan Karow finds out she has a new job and a new classroom.



Second Grade Teacher, Jacki Hickey, adds finishing touches to her classroom.

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
August 8, 2011
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convene

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on August 4, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Scott Scafe led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Megan Tabbert recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Ken Spratz, Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, Linda Brown, and Thomas Helgeson (7:12 teleconference). Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, John Smalley, and Michael St. Pierre; Student representatives: Megan Tabbert and Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Eric Jensen and Lisa Gerke.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to approve the agenda as amended by adding a Buildings and Grounds report and removing item G., Resignation/Retirement[s]. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Megan Tabbert reported on:

1. The high school football team started practicing.
2. There is a volleyball camp for freshman and seniors this week.
3. The high school Link Crew will start training for freshman orientation day in a couple of weeks.

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. The high school fall sports' meeting was held last Monday.
2. Student registration is August 15 and 16. High school students get to choose their schedules for this year.

Correspondence

A thank you letter for recent purchases from Brenengen Auto was shared with the Board.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Thomas Helgeson joined the meeting via teleconference at 7:12 p.m.

CESA #4 – Mr. Kindschy reported that policies were approved for second reading, three resignations were approved, two new contracts were approved, and discussion was held regarding dental and health insurance contributions.

Finance Committee – Mr. Kindschy reported that budget updates were given for the 2010-2011 and 2011-2012 school years and a tablet computer pilot for board members was discussed.

Transportation Committee – Mrs. Brown reported that the bus routes for 2011-2012 and the requests from drivers to keep vehicles on their own property were discussed and recommended to the full board for approval.

Policy Committee – Mr. Spratz reported the committee met earlier tonight. There will be policies at the next Board meeting for a first reading.

Buildings and Grounds Committee – Mrs. Brown reported that the committee had representatives from the West Salem Area Aquatic Center Committee present a report and two students for a request for an SEP project. Athletic fields, long range facilities and the energy audit were also discussed.

Mr. St. Pierre's report was reviewed and Mr. Gunderson reported on the recent class he took at Viterbo.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Falck moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of July 25, 2011; the minutes of the Special Board meeting of August 1, 2011; and the invoices to be paid. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and hire Shannon Kochie as a second grade teacher. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Spratz seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and hire Clara Murphy as a 2.5 hour elementary school food service employee. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and hire Roxanne Whitehead as a 3 hour elementary paraprofessional. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the administration's recommendations for middle school curricular positions: LeRoy Krall, cross country coach; Erin Ellerbach, 8th grade volleyball coach; Amanda Beld, 7th grade volleyball coach; Justin Running, 7th grade football coach; Josh Brewer, 8th grade football coach; Brad Trocinski, 7th grade assistant football coach; Matt Duster, 8th grade assistant football coach; and Josh Brewer, wrestling. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the Transportation Committee's recommendation and approve the bus routes for the 2011-2012 school year. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Spratz seconded to accept the Transportation Committee's recommendation and approve the requests from Bonnie Kortbein, Betty Hanson, Stan Tauscher, and the recent addition of Donna Bruemmer. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the District's mission, vision and core values as amended. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward asked Mr. Kindschy and Mr. Spratz be excused for the next agenda item at 7:43 p.m.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the health insurance vendor recommendation of the administration and insurance consultant to remain with the WEA plan as presented. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, and Mr. Ward Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to accept recommendation of the administration and insurance consultant for a health reimbursement account (HRA) as follows: 50% of the total deductible for teachers, district employees and administration; 75% of the total deductible for support staff. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mrs. Brown Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Helgeson Aye, and Mr. Ward Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

Convenc

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on August 19, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Taylor Gile led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Errol Kindschy recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, Scott Scafe, Linda Brown, and Thomas Helgeson. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representative: Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Ken Spratz, Barb Buswell, Dean Buchanan, Megan Tabbert.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. August 15 and 16 were registration days for the high school. This was the first year students were able to sign up for their classes online.
2. The high school cross country team has a home meet Friday afternoon.
3. School starts a week from Thursday.

Correspondence

A thank you note from the family of Marge Higdon was read.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Supervisor reports were reviewed and Mr. Gunderson reported on the following: HRAs for the staff, auditors, enrollment, 2011-2012 budget, busing and the cell tower.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of August 8, 2011; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the administration's recommendation for elementary unit leaders: 4K, Anna Squires; kindergarten, Chris Antony; grade 1, Cheryl Kammel; grade 2, Jacki Hickey; grade 3, Rita Schwartz; grade 4, Melissa Olson; grade 5, Sara Jeranek; MAPL, Angie Hemker; pupil services, Gayle Lassen; and special education, Jan Mattson. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mrs. Brown seconded to accept the administration's recommendation for high school volunteer coaches: boys' soccer, Ernie Tourville, Tony Berg and Jason Myhre; tennis, Stacy Rel; football, Scott Johnson, Brandon Olufs, Matthew Gorniak, Kyle Holzhausen, and Anthony Juen. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the resignation of maintenance employee David Mikrut. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to approve for the first reading of policy#343.7 On-line Learning as amended. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for the first reading of policy #183 Voting Method. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve for the first reading of policy #184 Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #187 Discussions. Motion carried unanimously.

Mrs. Brown moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #221 Recruitment and Appointment of Administrators. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Helgeson moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve as a procedure, the On-line Learning Guide. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and approve the employee handbook for the 2011-2012 school year. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Helgeson seconded to accept the administration's recommendation and create a seventh section of four-year-old kindergarten.

Mr. Gunderson received input on the next steps in the Strategic Planning process.

Adjournment

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to adjourn at 8:20p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda A. Brown, Clerk

The following minutes will be on the September 26 board agenda for approval.

School District of West Salem
Regular Board Meeting Minutes
September 12, 2011
Marie Heider Meeting Room – 7:00 p.m.

Convvene

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Tom Ward. The meeting was noticed to the Coulee News, La Crosse Tribune, WLSU Radio 89 FM, WXOW TV-19, WKBT-TV, WKTY, WIZM, Union State Bank, First Community Credit Union, St. Joe Country Market, River Bank-Barre Mills, West Salem Post Office, Village of West Salem, posted at each school, district web site, and district office on September 8, 2011.

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Megan Tabbert led everyone in the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance and Taylor Gile recited the District Mission Statement.

Roll Call

Present: Ken Spraez, Jason Falck, Tom Ward, Errol Kindschy, and Scott Scafe. Also in attendance – Administrators: Troy Gunderson, Dean Buchanan, Eric Jensen, Mark Carlson, Barb Buswell, John Smalley, Michael St. Pierre, and Lisa Gerke; Student representatives: Megan Tabbert and Taylor Gile. Finance Director: Davita Molling, Recording secretary: Patrick Bahr. Excused: Linda Brown and Thomas Helgeson.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve the agenda as amended by moving item V before items g. h. and i. Motion carried unanimously.

Connection with the Community

Megan Tabbert reported on:

1. Students are working on a new musical "Camp Rock".
2. The high school link crew and freshmen will be going to the outdoor education center on Thursday and Friday of this week.

Taylor Gile reported on:

1. The high school students are happy with the technology-related changes that were made: the use of cell phones in certain areas and the availability of Wi-Fi.
2. The pep club has started working on events for homecoming.
3. Elections will be held at the high school for class president.

Correspondence – None.

Public comments – None.

Written and Oral Reports

Policy Committee – Mr. Spraez reported that there is one policy for a first reading tonight and more at the next board meeting.

Administrator reports were reviewed. Mr. Gunderson reported on the following: cell tower agreement, busing, enrollment and meeting with a company to assist the district in creating a request for proposal for our energy upgrade.

Consent Agenda

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve the minutes of the Regular Board meeting of August 22, 2011; and the invoices to be paid. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion/Action Items:

Mr. Spratz moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the donations for the special education department from the Knights of Columbus, for the district from Dennis & Dorothy Baumgartner, for the high school band department from James and Monica Quinn. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the resignation of eighth grade volleyball coach Erin Ellerbach.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed a draft of the proposed school district grievance procedure that must be put into effect in October. The Board provided input for the administration. The final draft will be at the next board meeting.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve for a first reading of policy #751.1-Rule Bus Routing and Scheduling Guidelines. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Spratz moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to approve for a second reading of policy #343.7 On-line Learning, #183 Voting Method, #184 Minutes, #187 Discussions, and #221 Recruitment and Appointment of Administrators. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Gunderson reviewed the options for health insurance premium costs and related compensation. Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to approve option 4 as presented: Divide original savings amount into equal portions for the school district and for the employees. The district will cover the \$350,000 for budget reduction and the employees will cover the cost of the HRA. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ward welcomes the motion for closed session: The Board will discuss, consider and, if appropriate, take action regarding a) the disallowance of a claim of damages, and b) personal history of professional staff member pursuant to Wis. Stats §19.85(1) (f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories or disciplinary data of specific persons, preliminary consideration of specific personnel problems or the investigation of charges against specific persons except where par. (b) applies which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded that the Board convene in closed session at 7:51 p.m. A roll vote was taken: Mr. Falck Aye, Mr. Scafe Aye, Mr. Spratz Aye, Mr. Ward Aye, and Mr. Kindschy Aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Closed Session

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to return to open session at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session

Mr. Buchanan, Mr. Jensen, and Mr. Smalley returned to the meeting.

Mr. Ward announced that during closed session a motion was made: The West Salem Board of Education will disallow the claim against the school district by a family within the West Salem School District and serve notice, by certified mail of said disallowance to the same parties.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administrations recommendations: Brad Skaer, 8th grade volleyball coach; Lori Skaer-Jensen, 8th grade assistant volleyball coach; Nicole Friell, middle school cross country coach; Martha Burdick and Mary Czajka, council of kids; Angie Hemker and Danielle Dunham, after school art; and Lisa Jones, 5th grade choir. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Spratz seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire Christy Brodsky as a grade 5 teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Kindschy seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire Megan Karow on a one-year contract as a .5 FTE 4-year-old kindergarten teacher. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Falck moved, Mr. Scafe seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire Jackie Dawson as a 3.5 hour 4-year-old kindergarten paraprofessional. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Kindschy moved, Mr. Falck seconded to accept the administrations recommendation to hire Randy Groth in maintenance. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjournment

Mr. Scafe moved, Mr. Falck seconded to adjourn at 8:18 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Errol Kindschy, Acting Clerk



**Check out the fitness
center web page.**

http://www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/fitness_center.cfm

School District Mission Statement

**Serve with Passion to Ignite Creativity,
Innovation, and Excellence**

How is the mission applied in a kindergarten classroom? Mrs. Antony, kindergarten teacher, shares examples of “Creativity”.

“Creativity is ignited in many forms in a kindergarten classroom. It is during the first six weeks that we offer our children many opportunities to get acquainted and share individual qualities. We also provide daily opportunities for the children to play with one another, building that security in our safe environment. Some



children build towers and discover new ways to put the magnatiles together, eventually discovering that you can build a tower that is vertical as well as horizontal. Children may also choose to

express their creativity in the housekeeping area, using their imaginations and playing different roles with their classmates. The art area is always a place for the children to experiment and create with different materials. Many children make pictures for a family member or their teacher. They love the opportunity for academic choice; allowing them to choose how they want to create makes each child more involved in the process and the end product is something they are proud of.”



OEC Update

The Wisconsin Environmental Education Board (WEEB) was created in 1989, becoming law in 1990. One of the Board’s responsibilities is to award grants for the development, dissemination, and implementation of environmental education programs. The West Salem School District has been the recipient of 5 grants from WEEB in the past 15 years.

With monies from the current grant, the High School Alternative Energy class built a solar collector, the advanced construction class has begun remodeling the bunkhouse at the Outdoor Education Center (OEC), and a new, “rainy day,” curriculum will be developed for use at the OEC in grades K – 7. The solar collector will be installed and used to heat the new addition to the lodge. The bunkhouse will be turned into two new classrooms. In case of inclement weather, students will have a safe, dry place to go to continue their lessons while at the OEC. The rainy day curriculum will include indoor activities that teach the same concepts as the outdoor activities.

These projects have given many high school students research opportunities and hands-on experience in construction and will allow all students to enjoy learning at the OEC.



“The neat thing about this project is that my students got to have a lot of input into the floor plan layout of the new building. We are also re-using a lot of the material, and my students are going to be thinking of ways to be creative with the old materials,” said Technology Education Teacher Matt Huenink.



It is that time of year!!

We are going to start our *WALKING SCHOOL BUS* once again. We will be having our famous Friday *WALKING SCHOOL BUS* on Friday mornings. We meet at the corner of West Hamlin and North Youlon (across from St Leo's Church) at 7:25 a.m., on Fridays starting September 30th.

More information will be sent home with elementary students. Come join us and start your Friday off to a great start with some fresh air, good exercise and good company!

All students joining the *WALKING SCHOOL BUS* will receive a Famous Friday punch card and key chain to keep on their backpacks and each week they join the *WALKING SCHOOL BUS* they will earn a punch on their card. Full cards can be turned in for cool prizes!

**If you would like to volunteer to help lead or walk with us, please contact Erin Ellerbach, West Salem Safe Routes to School Coordinator, at 608-786-1662 ext 3174 or ellerbach.erin@wsalem.k12.wi.us.



The 2011 WSMS Marching Panthers made their season debut on Friday, September 9th, performing alongside the pride of West Salem, our very own WSHS Panther Marching Band. Over 250 7th through 12th grade students performed "Raiders March" from the motion picture "Raiders of the Lost Ark," along with a performance of our fight song. The WSMS band also performed at the Opening Day Parade with 9 other middle school bands on September 23rd and our annual Cranfest Parade performance back on September 25th. Congratulations to all of our students for a job well done! Our students will make one more appearance in our Homecoming Parade here in West Salem.

Coming to the Heider Center Thaddeus Rex and Rock

October 15 at 2:00 p.m.

Join **THADDEUS REX AND ROCK**, the dinosaur, in a high energy concert with award winning songs and interactive antics. Their acoustic music encourages kids to explore the power of reading. Dinosaur activities, snacks and prizes will follow the show.

General admission \$6.00



5th graders with their kindergarten "Bus Buddy"

5th grader students are all assigned one kindergarten buddy to help out at the end of the school day for the first 2 weeks of school. Their 5th grade buddy helps them get on the correct bus, or may walk them to Birchwood.



The West Salem School District prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or a part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the Pupil Services Director at (608)786-0700. To file a complaint of discrimination write to: Pupil Services Director at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, WI 54669 or call 608-786-0700. The West Salem School District is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Reminder - Youth Options

The Youth Options (YO) program allows high school juniors and seniors who have completed all coursework in a specific content area to enroll at an institution of higher education in Wisconsin. Courses may lead to credit that can be applied toward high school graduation as well as toward post-secondary programs. Courses are offered without cost to students. A student who intends to enroll in the University of Wisconsin La Crosse, Viterbo College, or Western Wisconsin Technical College in the Spring semester of 2012 must adhere to the following timeline:

1. Prior to October, arrange a conference with YO Coordinator, Cathy Tyink, to receive application forms and discuss appropriate course selection. Requests need to be specified for courses either different from any class or extensions (higher level) of classes the high school offers. Completed forms along with copies of your high school transcript, current high school schedule and printout of attendance record are due no later than 3:00 p.m. on October 1, 2011.
2. By November 15, 2011 you will be notified of the action taken by the Board of Education as to whether or not the course(s) you selected will be awarded high school credit and how much credit will be awarded.
3. Upon Board approval, the YO Coordinator will assist with institution paperwork, registration and schedule adjustments.

If the school board denies either the desired courses or the number of credits to be awarded, a pupil may appeal the decision to the state superintendent of schools within 30 days after receipt of the school board's decision.

If you have any questions regarding the Youth Options program, please contact Cathy Tyink at the high school, 786-1220, ext. 2332.

**Come and
see the area
talent!**

CAST LIST

Mitchie Torres – Ashley Rink (OHS)
Shane Gray – Bryar Hansen (WSHS)
Nate Gray – Asher Carlson (WSHS)
Dana Turner – Abby LeCleur (Coulee Christian School)
Luke Williams – Dalton Nichols (OHS)
Jason Gray – Tanner Zimmerman (WSHS)
Tess Tyler – Bridget Young (WSHS)
Barron James – Drew Reischl (Aquinas HS)
Sander Loya – Connor Waldhart (WSHS)
Andy Hosten – Alex Hesselberg-Linse (WSHS)
Caitlyn Geller – Alex Burch (WS Middle School)
Ella Pador – Tianna Sackett (WS Middle School)
Peggy Dupree – Kianna Brown (WSHS)
Rosie Day – Kate Ebert (WSHS)
Rita Day – Brittany Dummer (WSHS)

Axel Turner – Dan Heerts
Brown Cesario – Nick Springer
Georgina Farlow – Whitney Wyatt

CAMP ROCK CHORUS

Kayla Adams, Maya Ashbeck, Abby Bahr, April Haldeman, Ben Hanson, Josie Hanson, Rachael Jahnke, Laura Kelley, Katelyn Kneifl, Kaytlyn Larson, Wyatt Molling, Skylar Peterson, Janessa Prodzinski, Steven Reischl, Reece Sackett, Taylor Sackett, Morgan Scafe, Megan Schauf, Bailee Schmidt, Kate Schroeder, Lydia Schultz, Allie Skrentny, Anna Swanson, Gabe Sweeney, Brianna Tetzlaff, Hayley Williams, Loran Wirtala

CAMP STAR CHORUS

Dani Adams, Crystal Burrows, Ronnie Clements, Maria Ekern, Tori Hansen, Mikaela Hunter, Cailee Jandt, Sabrina MacRogers, Cameron Neader, Madeline Ristey, August Rogstad, Tierra Sackett, Janna Seeger, Erick Sells, Ethan Sells, Lydia Sells, Monica Wherry, Kieran Young

** Chorus members are from Central, Aquinas, West Salem and Christ-St. John's.



The performances will be
Friday, September 30 at 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, October 1 at 7:00 p.m.
Sunday, October 2 at 2:00 p.m.

Reserved tickets can be purchased on-line at showtix4u by visiting the district's web site at www.wsaalem.k12.wi.us and click on the Camp Rock image. Tickets will also be sold at the door.

Proposed Budget - 2011-2012

September 14, 2011

	<u>2009-10</u> <u>FY Activity</u>	<u>2010-11</u> <u>FY Activity</u>	<u>2011-12</u> <u>Revised Budget</u>
GENERAL FUND (10)			
ASSETS (700000)	4,061,831.47	4,065,752.63	4,112,866.43
LIABILITIES (800000)	1,301,878.22	1,202,886.20	1,400,000.00
TOTAL FUND BALANCE (930000)	2,759,953.25	2,862,866.43	2,712,866.43
REVENUES			
10 R --- 210 LOCAL PROPERTY/MOBILE HOME TAXES	4,107,409.52	4,667,865.43	5,079,419.00
10 R --- 240 PMT FOR CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	20,157.87	24,008.35	24,592.00
10 R --- 260 NON-CAPITAL SALES	3,957.60	4,562.97	4,600.00
10 R --- 270 SCHOOL ACTIVITY INCOME	44,998.47	33,948.12	34,276.00
10 R --- 280 INTEREST ON INVESTMENTS	4,143.83	4,330.27	4,500.00
10 R --- 290 OTHER REVENUE FROM LOCAL SOURC	85,007.40	92,168.06	115,469.00
10 R --- 340 PAYMENT FOR SERVICES	440,765.05	492,858.38	507,600.00
10 R --- 510 TRANSIT OF AIDS-CESA	6,449.84	7,734.71	6,031.00
10 R --- 610 STATE AID-CATEGORICAL	132,277.50	128,314.50	128,314.00
10 R --- 620 STATE AID-GENERAL	11,157,903.00	12,018,406.00	10,990,509.00
10 R --- 630 SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS	0.00	86,791.62	31,088.00
10 R --- 690 OTHER REVENUE FM STATE SOURCES	8,660.50	25,385.04	25,368.00
10 R --- 710 FEDERAL GR.MONIES FM USDA	623,642.00	0.00	0.00
10 R --- 730 SPECIAL PROJECT GRANTS	103,194.07	54,888.57	40,110.00
10 R --- 750 ED & CONSOLIDATION IMRPOV ACT	123,791.95	146,422.01	100,870.00
10 R --- 770 FED AID REC'D THROUGH COUNTIES	0.00	12,285.57	0.00
10 R --- 780 FED AID-REC'D FM DPI	0.00	155,805.77	150,768.00
10 R --- 790 OTHER FEDERAL REVENUES	500.00	0.00	0.00
10 R --- 860 SALE OF CAPITAL EQUIP	0.00	0.00	2,400.00
10 R --- 960 REV ADJUST-INSURANCE SETTLEMENT	29,481.53	17,961.19	18,000.00
10 R --- 970 REFUND PRIOR YEAR EXPENSE	6,594.67	53,850.16	36,100.00
10 R --- 990 OTHER MISC REVENUES	3,000.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL FUND 10 REVENUES	16,901,934.80	18,027,586.72	17,300,014.00
EXPENDITURES			
10 E --- 110 UNDIFFERENTIATED SS CURRICULUM	5,040,251.96	5,060,606.92	4,587,026.00
10 E --- 120 REGULAR CURRICULUM	2,481,238.21	2,723,461.97	2,442,703.00
10 E --- 130 VOCATIONAL CURRICULUM	497,123.44	549,925.04	505,384.00
10 E --- 140 PHYSICAL AND HEALTH	468,663.71	585,640.27	521,058.00
10 E --- 160 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES	299,304.99	313,817.26	301,526.00
10 E --- 170 SPECIAL NEEDS	1,491.36	1,023.31	2,200.00
10 E --- 210 PUPIL SERVICES	318,657.32	331,017.65	319,333.00
10 E --- 220 INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF SERVICES	779,028.65	887,326.15	861,364.00
10 E --- 230 GENERAL ADMINISTRATION	378,159.69	358,202.37	373,056.00
10 E --- 240 SCHOOL BUILDING ADMINISTRATION	845,896.17	941,566.82	868,904.00
10 E --- 250 BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION	2,841,200.98	2,796,366.75	2,692,580.00
10 E --- 260 CENTRAL SERVICES	339,847.64	427,935.70	1,037,912.00
10 E --- 270 INSURANCE AND JUDGMENTS	205,915.94	174,853.29	163,707.00
10 E --- 280 DEBT SERVICES	7,930.81	7,725.33	9,500.00
10 E --- 290 OTHER SUPPORT SERVICES	501,290.84	497,315.63	583,749.00
10 E --- 410 INTERFUND & INTERGOVN TRANSFER	1,427,697.92	1,708,378.43	1,582,012.00
10 E --- 430 GENERAL TUITION	485,842.66	551,248.34	589,500.00
10 E --- 490 OTHER NON-PROGRAM TRANSACTIONS	4,429.57	8,262.31	8,500.00
TOTAL FUND 10 EXPENSES	16,923,971.86	17,924,673.54	17,450,014.00

	2009-10 FY Activity	2010-11 FY Activity	2011-12 Revised Budget		2009-10 FY Activity	2010-11 FY Activity	2011-12 Revised Budget
SPECIAL REVENUE TRUST (21)				STUDENT ACTIVITY FUND (60)			
ASSETS	265,460.67	253,520.04	238,020.04	ASSETS	156,848.20	162,543.26	162,000.00
LIABILITIES	13,167.95	0.00	0.00	LIABILITIES	156,848.20	162,543.26	162,000.00
FUND BALANCE	252,292.72	253,520.04	238,020.04	PRIVATE BENEFIT TRUST FUND/SCHOLARSHIPS (72)			
REVENUE	19,263.72	19,087.64	5,500.00	ASSETS	189,638.33	183,817.50	176,308.50
EXPENSE	51,308.99	17,860.32	21,000.00	LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00
SPECIAL EDUCATION FUND (27)				FUND BALANCE	189,638.33	183,817.50	176,308.50
ASSETS	13,569.64	296,369.24	250,000.00	REVENUE	1,811.29	8,332.86	5,050.00
LIABILITIES	13,569.64	296,369.24	250,000.00	EXPENSE	9,477.50	14,153.69	12,559.00
FUND BALANCE	0.00	0.00	0.00	POST EMPLOYMENT TRUST FUND (73)			
REVENUE	2,827,326.02	2,936,640.40	2,680,543.00	ASSETS	1,149,881.95	1,382,873.07	1,557,278.45
EXPENSE	2,827,326.02	2,936,640.40	2,680,543.00	LIABILITIES	0.00	13,212.62	0.00
DEBT SERVICE (39)				FUND BALANCE	1,149,881.95	1,369,660.45	1,557,278.45
ASSETS	1,072,468.04	1,135,538.94	1,121,698.94	REVENUE	801,021.11	789,130.94	782,851.00
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00	0.00	EXPENSE	585,217.82	569,352.44	595,233.00
FUND BALANCE	1,072,468.04	1,135,538.94	1,121,698.94	COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND (80)			
REVENUE	2,030,325.49	2,092,903.40	4,599,091.00	ASSETS	(3,168.37)	13,753.39	5,000.00
EXPENSE	2,020,717.50	2,029,832.50	4,612,931.00	LIABILITIES	2,902.93	9,424.87	5,000.00
FOOD SERVICE (50)				FUND BALANCE	(6,071.30)	4,328.52	0.00
ASSETS	160,801.92	131,330.18	124,535.10	REVENUE	134,926.67	130,746.69	131,140.00
LIABILITIES	35,018.28	30,936.89	42,517.81	EXPENSE	132,487.95	120,346.87	135,468.52
FUND BALANCE	125,783.64	100,393.29	82,017.29				
REVENUE	846,182.27	867,163.10	918,190.00				
EXPENSE	844,466.81	892,553.45	936,566.00				

ANNUAL MEETING

The West Salem School District Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

BUDGET HEARING

The West Salem School District Budget Hearing will be held on Monday, October 17, 2011 at 6:30 p.m.

Proposed 2011-2012 Property Tax Levy

	Audited 2010-11	Proposed 2011-12
PROPOSED PROPERTY TAX LEVY:		
GENERAL FUND (10)	\$4,622,173	\$5,033,419
DEBT SERVICE (39)	\$2,028,703	\$1,871,246
COMMUNITY SERVICE FUND (80)	\$109,500	\$109,500
TOTAL	\$6,760,376	\$7,014,165
TOTAL SCHOOL LEVY RATE	0.00970129	*0.01006548

*The General Aid calculation reflected is an estimate subject to final enrollment numbers and official state certification. Updated property valuations will be available and the final mill rate calculated at that time, and subsequently approved at the October 24th Board Meeting.

State Testing

The start of school brings the anticipation of the Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Examinations. The testing window for the 2011-2012 school year is October 24 - November 25. This is a state-mandated test for all students in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 10. There are five components to the 4-8-10 grade test: Reading, Language Arts, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Grades 3-5-6-7 will test Reading and Math.

These tests are only one indication of how our schools are performing. There are many factors involved in school performance and the West Salem School District is dedicated and committed to providing quality education for our students and community. Please contact any of the school counselors if you have questions regarding WKCE testing: Gayle Lassen and Jennifer Grimsled at the elementary school, Mike Lang at the middle school, and Lynne Brown and Cathy Tyink at the high school; or Michael St. Pierre, Director of Instruction.



Attendance on testing days is extremely critical. If your child misses school, he or she will be required to make up the test at another time, and thus miss more school/class time. Please discuss the importance of these tests with your child(ren).

Back: Jennifer Grimsled, Mike Lang and Lynne Brown. Front: Gayle Lassen and Cathy Tyink

Following are some tips to help students be even more successful:

Make a commitment to do your best! * Get a good night's sleep prior to the test * Set the alarm to ring a little early to avoid having to rush in the morning * Pick out clothing at night before going to bed to avoid wasting time before going to school * Eat a good breakfast and lunch, but don't overeat * Wear comfortable clothing-something you feel confident wearing * Try to clear your mind of all worries * Resolve any disagreements with family and friends * Avoid activities that may tend to create controversy or unpleasantness * THINK POSITIVELY ABOUT THE TEST! A POSITIVE ATTITUDE COUNTS AS DOUBLE * Recognize and accept anxious feelings * Do not become discouraged because of difficult test items * Listen and watch carefully while instructions are being given * If you don't understand the directions, ask questions IMMEDIATELY * Read directions quickly, but carefully * Work swiftly and accurately * Find the proper answer space on the answer sheet and mark it carefully * Make sure the answer sheet number is the same as the number of the test question * Complete all the easier items. Don't waste time on the difficult ones. Come back to them * Eliminate answers which you know are wrong, then check the remaining responses for key words * Narrow your choices down to two answers, but if you still can't decide make an educated guess * If you complete your test with time left, be sure to go back and check your work * Be sure to erase any dots or stray marks on your answer sheet * Read the questions first * Read all of the answers * Use your head * Pace yourself * RELAX * Give yourself positive and reassuring messages * Have confidence!

West Salem Winter Sports' Parent Meeting

The winter pre-season sports' meeting will be held on Monday, October 31, 2011 in the Heider Auditorium beginning at 7:00 p.m. This meeting is for those athletes interested in participating in boys' or girls' basketball, wrestling, gymnastics, boys' or girls' hockey, skiing/snowboarding, and winter dance, and their parents/guardians. The 7:00 - 8:00 general session is only for those parents and athletes who did not fulfill this obligation at the fall pre-season meeting. Because of the significance of understanding and signing-off on some district and WIAA policies, parents and athletes need to be in attendance for the entire meeting. Therefore, the auditorium doors will be closed at 7:00 PM SHARP, and anyone not present at that time will need to schedule a later appointment time to get this information. At 8:00 p.m. all athletes and parents, with the exception of hockey, are expected to attend the break-out session with the coach(es) of their respective sport. From 6:30 - 9:00, there will be stations set up in the lobby to check the necessary paperwork requirements of each new athlete. It is strongly advised to arrive well before the 7:00 PM starting time to have the necessary time to understand what paperwork needs to be completed. All paperwork must be completed and turned in before beginning practice. If there are any questions, call athletic director LeRoy Krall at 786-1220, Ext. 2353.

Grade Advancement Policy - 345.4

The philosophy of the West Salem School District is for all students to achieve optimal learning based on high expectations and considerations of their abilities and needs. This applies to grade advancement of 4th to 5th and 8th to 9th grades and Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE) results. The Board recognizes that students have diverse capabilities and interests and individual patterns of growth and learning. Therefore, the Board believes it is important that teachers have as much accurate knowledge of each student as is possible through daily observations and student records.

Because the promotion of students from the fourth grade to the fifth grade and from the eighth to the ninth grade is affected by State Statutes (ss.118.33)(6)(a), this grade advancement policy applies to such promotions. Other district policies relating to the promotion of students apply if they are not inconsistent with this policy. Beginning on September 1, 2002, no student may be promoted from the fourth grade to the fifth grade or from the eighth grade to the ninth grade unless the student satisfies the criteria for promotion in this policy.

Grade advancement decisions will be based on the three criteria listed below. For those students opted-out of the WKCE, judgment is based on the other specified criteria.

A-1. Student Score on Wisconsin Knowledge and Concepts Exam (WKCE)

Receives a score of basic or above on 3 or more of the 5 subtests that compromise the WKCE.

AND

A-2. By achieving a grade point average of 2.0 or above (on a 12 point scale) in graded subjects; or

By successfully completing the Goals and Objectives on the Individual Education Plan (IEP).

OR

B. Teacher Recommendations

The recommendation will be determined through consensus of the Grade Advancement Committee. The Grade Advancement Committee from the elementary and middle school shall consist of the following membership: building principal or assistant building principal, school counselor, classroom teachers of the student in question, Director of Pupil Services or designee. In addition, the building principal may include others in the formal teacher recommendation, if deemed appropriate. The Grade Advancement Committee, in its formal process, may evaluate the following:

1. The student's school development history.
2. Student achievement level and curricular expectations.
3. Alternative instructional strategies available and currently being implemented (remedial services, peer tutoring, etc.).
4. The extent of alternative programming available in both the new and repeated grade.
5. Age of the student.
6. The results of special education testing.

Parent (s) or guardian (s) will be invited to attend the meeting of the Grade Advancement Committee. However, the final decision rests with the West Salem Board of Education. The student may participate as deemed appropriate by parent (s) or guardian (s).

OR

B. Other Academic Criteria Specified by the School Board

Successful completion of an individual remediation plan designed by the Grade Advancement Committee.

The district administrator shall be responsible for the general supervision and management of the promotion of students under this policy. The district administrator or, if assigned the responsibility by the district administrator, the building principal shall determine whether a student has satisfied the criteria in this policy. This policy is designed to encourage early identification and interventions for those students who have academic, behavioral, and/or emotional difficulties. Written confirmation will be sent to the parent (s) or guardian (s) regarding the final decision by June 15 of the just completed school year. Decisions will apply for the following year.

APPROVED: August 22, 2000

March 12, 2002

REVISED: January 14, 2008

July 25, 2011

Teen Read Week™

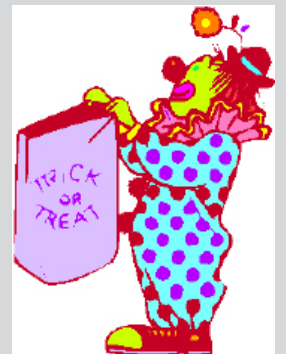
will be celebrated

October 16 – 2

with the theme

“Picture It @ your library.”

The WSHS National Honors Society (NHS) will “Trick-or-Can” in the West Salem community on Sunday, October 30 from 3-6 p.m. Please consider donating non-perishable food items to the NHS (National Honor Society) students during the event. All donated food items will be given to the West Salem Food Pantry.



HAPPY

HALLOWEEN

Thank you for your support!

SCHOOL DISTRICT OF WEST SALEM
NOTICE FOR ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING
(Common and Union High School Districts)
(Section 120.8(1))

Notice is hereby given to qualified electors of the School District of West Salem, that the Annual Meeting of said District for the transaction of business will be held in the Marie W. Heider Meeting Room at 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin on the 17th day of October, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of September, 2011.

Linda A. Brown, District Clerk

NOTICE OF BUDGET HEARING
(SECTION 65.90(4))

Notice is hereby given to the qualified electors of the School District of West Salem that the Budget Hearing will be held in the Marie W. Heider Meeting Room, 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin on the 17th day of October, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. Detailed copies of the budget are available for inspection in the District's office, 405 East Hamlin Street, West Salem, Wisconsin from 7:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Dated this 12th day of September, 2011.

Linda A. Brown, District Clerk

Did You Know...

There is an "opportunities bulletin board" located right across the hallway from the HS LMC.

The concept of having such a board is to provide students one convenient area to check for opportunities including:

- "Help Wanted" advertisements
- Writing, music, service or other contests, competitions
- "Volunteers Wanted" advertisements

This board is checked on a weekly basis to ensure it's up to date.

Please spread the word that we have a great place for area employers to post job openings or for service agencies to solicit volunteers. Again, employers can either email, mail or drop off their announcements in my mailbox. I will be sure to post.

Cathy Tyink, School Counselor
West Salem High School
(608) 786-1220 x2332
Tyink.Cathy@wsalem.k12.wi.us

**For a full-color version
of this and past
newsletters, check out
the West Salem School
District Website at
<www.wsalem.k12.wi.us>**

Vaccination Information

On November 9, 2011, La Crosse County Health Department will be at the West Salem High School in the afternoon to administer the flu vaccine. The clinic is open to everyone. Every year influenza can cause some people to get very ill. While not everyone will get the virus, with the availability of the flu vaccine – no one needs to become ill with influenza. We encourage everyone (from 6 months of age) to get the vaccine. The vaccine is free for children up to age 18.

Along with the flu vaccine, the Health Department will bring immunizations that students require so if your child is behind on any immunizations they can receive them at the Flu shot clinic!

If you have any questions, please call Connie Troyanek RN at 786-1662.



The West Salem High School and Middle School bands perform together during the half time show of the home varsity football game with Arcadia. (See article and pictures on page 11.)



Ads For Grads/Friendship Ads

The Neshonoc Yearbook Ads for Grads program is a wonderful way to congratulate seniors on their accomplishments. The size options include anything from a full-page to an 1/8th page ad. The larger options provide more room for multiple photos and longer messages. Remember: The longer your message, the less space available to showcase your grad's picture(s).

Friendship Ads are also an option for seniors. The ads provide an opportunity for seniors to celebrate their friendships with pictures and a message.

If interested please fill out the following form and turn it in to the yearbook staff by Monday, January 9, 2012.

ADS FOR GRADS AND FRIENDSHIP ADS

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Graduate's Name: _____

Ad size: __ 1/8 (\$40) __ 1/4 (\$65)

 __ 1/2 (\$100) __ Full page (\$185)

Message: _____

If the ad includes photos, please label them clearly, and send them along with this form and payment in full. Please make checks payable to West Salem High School. (Photos will be returned shortly after our final March deadline. If you need them back earlier, please contact the yearbook staff.)

Successful Event

Many thanks to the people who brought in their old electronics to the WSES PTO electronic recycling drive. We were able to collect nearly 2 semi-loads of old electronics to be recycled. PTO was glad to organize and cover the costs for this community event. As we could see from the success of the event, it was definitely a need in the community.



Lisa Jones
PTO President

Senior Photos

Each senior needs photos for the following publications: *The 2012 Neshonoc Yearbook*, *the Coulee News*, *the Times of Our Lives*, and *the Senior Slideshow*.

**ALL PHOTOS DUE BY NO LATER THAN:
Friday, November 9, 2011**

For more information, please see the August 2011 District Newsletter which is available on the District's website.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- 1 Volleyball/JV/C at Tomah Invite - 9:00
OEC - Grade 2 volunteer training - 8:00-11:00
- 3 Football-JV at BRF - 5:30
OEC - Grade 2 volunteer training - 8:30-11:30
OEC - Grade 3 Rain Date
OEC - Grade 4 Rain Date
- 3-4 Tennis Sub Sectional
- 4 Soccer-JV/V (H) Dodgeville - 5:00/7:00
Cross Country-V/JV at BRF Invite - 4:30
Football-C at BRF - 5:30
Volleyball-C/JV/V (H) Onalaska Luther - 6:00/7:30
OEC - Grade 2 (Hesse & Zais)
- 5 OEC - Grade 2 (Hickey, Macha)
- 5-6 Tennis Sectionals
- 6 Soccer-V at Mauston - 4:30
OEC - Grade 2 (Kochie & Servais)
- 7 Football-V Aquinas (H) Homecoming - 7:00
- 8 Cross Country-V/JV at Arcadia Invitational at Schultz Farm - 10:30
Volleyball-V/JV at Logan/Central Invitational - 8:30
OEC - Grade 1 volunteer training - 8:00-11:00
- 10 Football-JV (H) Aquinas - 5:30
OEC - Grade 1 volunteer training - 8:30-11:30
OEC - Grade 2 Rain Date
- 11 Soccer Regional Semi-Finals
Volleyball-C/JV/V (H) Arcadia - 6:00/7:30
OEC - Grade 1 (Christianson & Kammel)
- 12 OEC - Grade 1 (Bradley, Johnson & Wheeler)
- 13 Soccer Regional Finals
Volleyball-C/JV/V (H) Westby - 6:00/7:30
OEC - Grade 1 (Crow & Wagner)
- 13-15 Tennis Individual State
- 14 Football-V (H) Westby - 7:00
OEC - Grade 6
- 15 Cross Country-V/JV Coulee Conference Meet at BRF - 10:00
OEC - volunteer training (8:00-10:00)
- 17 Football-JV (H) Westby - 5:30
OEC - Grade 1 Rain Date
OEC - Grade 5 volunteer training (8:30-10:30)
- 18 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
Football-C (H) Westby - 5:30
Volleyball Regional Quarter Finals
- 20 Soccer Sectional Semi Finals
- 21 Volleyball Regional Semi Finals
OEC - Grade 5
- 21-22 Football Level One Play Off
- 21-22 Tennis Team State
- 22 Soccer Sectional Finals
Cross Country Sectional Meet
Volleyball Regional Finals

- 26 OEC - Grade 5 Rain Date
- 27 Volleyball Sectional Semi Finals
OEC - Ropes Course Training (middle and high school staff)
- 27-28 **No School**
- 28 Soccer State Semi Finals at Milwaukee
- 28-29 Football Level Two Play Off
- 29 Soccer State Finals at Milwaukee
Cross Country State Meet at Wisconsin Rapids
Volleyball Sectional Finals

NOVEMBER

- 4 Volleyball State Semi Final at Green Bay
- 4-5 Football Level Three Play Off
- 5 Volleyball State Final at Green Bay
- 10 4th Grade PE night - 6:30-7:30
- 11-12 Football Level Four Play Off
- 15 **Early Release - Dismissal at 12:30**
- 17 2nd Grade & 3rd Grade Rhythms Program - 6:30-7:00
- 17-18 Football State Finals at Madison
- 23-25 **No School**

Homecoming October 7 Need Panther Apparel?

Stop at the high school office to visit the school store during the school day. (preferred times: 7:30-11:30 or 1:30-4:00)

Mark Your Calendars

All Rhythms Programs start at 6:30 and should be done by 7:00; and all PE Nights go from 6:30 to 7:30.

- Kindergarten's Rhythms Program is Thursday, April 26.
- 1st grade's Rhythms Program is Thursday, April 26 and PE Night is Thursday, Jan. 26.
- 2nd grade's Rhythms Program is Thursday, Nov. 17 and PE Night is Thursday, Jan. 12.
- 3rd grade's Rhythms Program is Thursday, Nov. 17 and PE Night is Thursday, Mar. 1.
- 4th grade's Rhythms Program is Monday, Mar. 26 and PE Night is Thursday, Nov. 10.
- 5th grade's Rhythms Program is Monday, Mar. 26 and PE Night is Thursday, Dec. 1.

Lindy Meyers, Erin Ellerbach & Josh Brewer
Elementary Physical Education Teachers

Annual Meeting/Budget Hearing
From the Superintendent
Camp Rock - by area students
Calling All Community Artists
NHS - Trick-or-Can
Heider Center Events
Community Fitness Center
Calendar of Events
School Board Minutes
WSHS Winter Sports Meeting
State Testing
Grade Advancement Policy
Teen Read Week
Youth Options
Walking School Bus
Neshonoc Yearbook Information
OEC Update
.....And Much More

IN
THIS
ISSUE

B-A-O-AB?
Donate Blood
***It takes all blood types,
all generations...Especially Yours***

West Salem Blood Drive

Monday, November 21, 2011

12:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Presbyterian Church

625 West Franklin Street, West Salem, WI

Blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of ID required at check-in.

American Red Cross



Appointments call 786-0684. Walk-ins are Welcome.

Have you ever thought about being a School Board member for the district?

If so, contact any current Board Member.

For a current list and contact information, visit

<www.wsalem.k12.wi.us/board/members.cfm>

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